

29 December 1969

Mr. Paul Scott  
Senate Press Gallery  
The Capitol  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Scott,

Several friends in different parts of the country have sent me copies of your syndicated column of November 1969 on Lee Harvey Oswald's last letter, in which you suggest that there is a baffling mystery in Oswald's knowledge in November 1963 that the Cuban consul in Mexico, Eusebio Azque, was to be relieved of his post. I note that this is an up-dated but almost identical version of the column which you published two years earlier, in November 1967.

In both the original and up-dated columns, you refer to and ostensibly quote in full a CIA memorandum to the Warren Commission. This CIA memorandum appears as Warren Commission Exhibit No. 3126 in the Hearings and Exhibits, Volume XXVI page 790. A comparison between this Exhibit and your version of the CIA memorandum shows that although you give no indication whatever of excision or hiatus you have in fact deleted from the body of the CIA document the following crucial sentences:

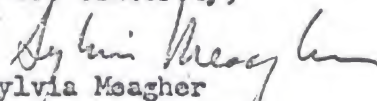
"Azque had been in Mexico for 18 years and it was known as early as September 1963 that Azque was to be replaced. His replacement did arrive in September...We do not know who might have told Oswald that Azque or any other Cuban had been or was to be replaced, but we speculate that Silvia Duran or some Soviet official might have mentioned it if Oswald complained about Azque's altercation with him."

(Underlined material was omitted from your column)

The deletion of these key portions of the CIA memorandum without any acknowledgment of excision contravenes the entire point of the document and is highly misleading and deceptive, since the effect is to create a "mystery" where none exists and to imply a clandestine link between Oswald and a Cuban and/or Communist apparatus. This is a disservice to the public and to historical accuracy which is, to say the least, highly irresponsible and mischievous.

I realize, of course, that you may have published the incomplete and misleading text of the CIA memorandum in good faith, without being aware that the full and authentic text is a matter of public record and obviates the very inferences drawn by you in your column. If so, I feel sure that you will wish to publish a clarification and correction at the earliest opportunity, so as to redress any inadvertent misrepresentation of the facts.

Yours sincerely,

  
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cc: Congressman Edward Koch  
The New York Times  
The American Society of Newspaper Editors  
et al